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To:	Examiner Arti R. Singh c/o Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA	United States Patent & Trademark Office	703-872-9310
Subject:	Serial No. 10/034,816 Filed December 27, 2001; K-C Docket 16,876 Title: Non-Slip Absorbent Article Response to Restriction Requirement With Traverse in response to Office Action mailed August 8, 2003		

OFFICIAL

From:	John L. Brodersen	Page:	1 of 5
Dept:	Legal Department	Date:	September 8, 2003
Loc:	Kimberly-Clark Worldwide, Inc.		

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By: Barbara D. Miller
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In the United States Patent and Trademark Office

Applicants:	Earle H. Sherrod et al.	Docket No.:	16,876
Serial No.:	10/034,816	Group:	1771
Confirmation No:	1500	Examiner:	Arti R. Singh
Filed:	December 27, 2001	Date:	September 8, 2003
For:	NON-SLIP ABSORBENT ARTICLE		

Response to Restriction Requirement With Traverse

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In the restriction requirement mailed August 8, 2003, the Examiner asserts that the claims of the instant application are directed to distinct inventions and has required an election of a single invention for prosecution on the merits to which the claims will be restricted. The Examiner has identified the inventions by reference to particular groupings of the claims as a combination (group I) and sub-combination (group II).

In response to the restriction requirement, Applicants respectfully **provisionally elect** group I (claims 1 – 10) to be prosecuted by way of the present application.

This election is made **with traverse**. Applicant specifically reserves the right to seek patent protection for non-elected subject matter by divisional application.

Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's restriction requirement should be withdrawn. The field of search for the various configurations of the claims would be co-extensive. In addition, Applicants fail to appreciate how the subcombination (group II, claims 11-20) have a separate utility ("such as [a] "polishing pad" from the combination (group I, claims 1 – 10). If, as the Examiner suggests, group II may be used as a polishing pad, Applicants respectfully assert that the invention of group I would also have this utility. Therefore, Applicants submit that the Examiner has not established that the subcombination (group II) has a separate utility. The election of claims has been made merely to expedite the prosecution of the present application.

The undersigned may be reached at: 920/721-3862.

Respectfully submitted,

EARLE H. SHERROD ET AL.

By: 

John L. Brodersen

Registration No.: 51,236

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S/N 10/034,816

Response to Restriction Requirement With Traverse – Attachment 1

Group 1 Claims:

1. An absorbent article comprising:
a vapor-permeable liquid-impermeable bottomsheets having an interior surface and an exterior surface;
an absorbent structure positioned adjacent the interior surface; and
a non-adhesive skid-resistant coating applied to the exterior surface such that the bottomsheets remains vapor-permeable after application of the coating.
2. The absorbent article of claim 1 further comprising a liquid permeable topsheet having a first surface positioned adjacent the absorbent structure, sandwiching the absorbent structure between the topsheet and the bottomsheets.
3. The absorbent article of claim 2 wherein the absorbent structure is adhesively joined to at least one of the first surface and the interior surface.
4. The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein the bottomsheets has a vapor permeability, after application of the coating, of greater than about 300 grams $H_2O/m^2/24$ hours.
5. The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein the exterior surface, after application of the coating, has a static coefficient of friction greater than about 0.7.
6. The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein the absorbent article has a drape stiffness less than about 10 cm after application of the coating.
7. The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein the absorbent article has an area greater than about 100 square inches.
8. The absorbent article of claim 5 wherein the absorbent article has a thickness less than about 15 mm.
9. The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein the exterior surface is planar.
10. The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein the exterior surface is non-planar improving the skid-resistance of the absorbent article.

S/N 10/034,816

Response to Restriction Requirement With Travers - Attachment 2

Group 2 Claims:**11. An absorbent article comprising:**

a liquid permeable topsheet having a first surface, a second surface, and a perimeter;
an absorbent structure positioned adjacent the first surface;
a vapor-permeable liquid-impermeable bottomsheets having an interior and an exterior surface, the interior surface positioned adjacent the absorbent structure sandwiching the absorbent structure between the topsheet and the bottomsheets;
a non-adhesive skid-resistant coating applied to the exterior surface such that the bottomsheets remains vapor-permeable after application of the coating; and
barrier means for minimizing leakage along at least a portion of the perimeter.

12. The absorbent article of claim 11 wherein the barrier means comprises a strip of material joined to the second surface adjacent the perimeter.

13. The absorbent article of claim 11 wherein the barrier means comprises an integral portion of the bottomsheets joined to the second surface.

14. The absorbent article of claim 11 further comprising a rectangular shape wherein the barrier means 22 are located adjacent the longer sides of the rectangular shape.

15. The absorbent article of claim 14 wherein the bottomsheets has a vapor permeability, after application of the coating, of greater than about 300 grams H₂O/m²/24 hours.

16. The absorbent article of claim 11 wherein the exterior surface contains a plurality of rugosities.

17. The absorbent article of claim 16 wherein the rugosities are formed by embossing.

S/N 10/034,816

Response to Restriction Requirement With Traverse – Attachment 2

18. A bed pad comprising:

- a liquid permeable topsheet having a first surface, a second surface, and a perimeter;
- an absorbent structure joined to the first surface;
- a vapor-permeable liquid-impermeable bottomsheets having an interior and an exterior surface, the interior surface joined to the absorbent structure;
- a non-adhesive skid-resistant coating applied to the exterior surface such that the bottomsheets remains vapor-permeable after application of the coating; and
- a portion of the bottomsheets extending past the perimeter, and the bottomsheets portion joined to the second surface forming an edge dam.

19. The bed pad of claim 18 wherein the bottomsheets portion comprises at least one fold.

20. The bed pad of claim 18 wherein the exterior surface contains a plurality of rugosities and has a coefficient of friction greater than about 0.7.

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